

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-14 are pending. Claim 1 is amended, and claims 3-14 are added. Claims 1 and 8 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Drawings

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has accepted the drawings.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Objection to the Specification

In response to the Examiner's objection to the specification, the Applicants have amended the first paragraph of the specification to recite:

This application is a Divisional of co-pending Application No. 09/949,754, filed on September 12, 2001, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference and for which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120; and this application claims priority of Application No. 2000-277065 filed in Japan on September 12, 2000 under 35 U.S.C. § 119. Application No. 2000-277065 is now U.S. Patent No. 6,715,376.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 24, 2004.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to overcome this rejection, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to address the issue pointed out by the Examiner. The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Oyama (U.S. 4,622,934); or in the alternative

claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Oyama in view of Koji (JP 7-94859); and

claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Oyama in view of Sumi et al. (U.S. 6,334,422), or in the alternative

claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Oyama and Koji in view of Sumi et al.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 8

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to recite a combination of steps directed to method for assembling a structure for transmitting the power of an engine, including, *inter alia*, the steps of:

mounting an intermediate shaft driven gear and an intermediate shaft driving gear on a portion of the intermediate shaft projecting outside of one of the two cases; and

mounting at least one balancer weight on a portion of the intermediate shaft projecting outside of the other of the two cases.

In addition, independent claim 8 has been amended herein to recite a combination of steps directed to method for assembling a structure for transmitting the power of an engine, including, *inter alia*, the steps of:

mounting an intermediate shaft driven gear and an intermediate shaft driving gear together on a first end the intermediate shaft.

Support for the novel features set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 8 can be seen, for example, in FIGS. 1 and 2.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of steps set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 8 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Oyama and Koji.

In contrast to the present invention, as can be seen in Oyama FIG. 2, this document merely discloses a driven gear 18 and a driving gear 19 mounted on opposite ends of primary shaft 16.

In addition, as can be seen in Koji FIG. 3, this document merely discloses a single gear (an idle gear) disposed on the end portion of the intermediate shaft projecting outside of the crankcase. Further, as best understood by the Applicants, the balancer weight of the Koji device is disposed inside the crankcase.

Thus, the cited references, whether consider alone or in combination can teach or suggest the novel combination of features set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 8, as presented herein.

At least for the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of features set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 8 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Oyama and Koji. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 8 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 3-7 and 9-14 have been added to set forth additional novel features of the present invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, as well as for the additional novel limitations set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

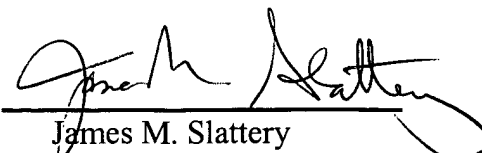
Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380

JMS:CTT:kj 

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000